

WALKER, SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW

10054

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BIOGRAPHIC FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

WALKER, SAMUEL

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Field Worker's name Raymond C. JantzThis report made on (date) February 25, 1938

1. Name Samuel Walker - Pawnee Indian
2. Post Office Address Fort Cobb, Oklahoma
3. Residence address & location 1/4 mile South Fort Cobb
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Mth April Day 15 Year 1891
5. Place of birth Pawnee, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father Charlie Walker Place of birth Nebraska

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lizzie Walker Place of birth Nebraska

Other information about mother Didn't remember mother'smaiden name.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Write on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4

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Raymond C. Jantz
Investigator
February 25, 1938.

Interview with Samuel Walker
Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

I was born at Pawnee in 1891 and I am part Pawnee Indian. My parents came from Nebraska when the Pawnee Indians were moved from there. The Indians, I think, have been mistreated by all who have come in contact with them. They have been promised things for giving up their homes and have received nothing. All rights have been taken away from them and their worship has been made fun of. The white men do not understand the Indian. The Indian has no knowledge except what Nature has given him. The things that Nature gives him he always remembers. The Indians depended entirely upon Nature for their food, medicines and shelter.

The Indian worships Nature. Nature is the Indian's God so to speak. As one time I remember an old Indian was on his knees worshipping his God when an unkindly remark was made by some white men. They said, "Look at that heathen worshipping the sun". I asked them what right they had to make remarks about our religion. They said "Isn't he worshipping the sun?". I said "No, he is only thanking his Maker

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for the sunshine and light. Without these we would all perish". Then I asked them if they ever knew of an Indian making fun of a white man's worship? They didn't answer but walked away. The white men, or some white men I should say, talk too much about things that they know nothing about.

The Indian depends entirely upon Nature to tell him what to do. When an Indian starts to do something he always has a feeling to follow; this feeling will tell him to go ahead and do a certain thing or will tell him it is wrong.

Another act of worship that the Indians carried out was called the "Sacred Bundle". These bundles contained very rare specimens of different things such as mounted birds, bows and arrows and other things that were of value. These bundles we kept entirely from exposure. There has never been a drop of water on any of them. There is a carded buffalo hair rope around a sacred bundle. The covering is made from the hide of a calf or young buffalo and is tanned. The Indians have special days to open these bundles which are opened to be aired out and for the articles within to be checked over.

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One time I was at the home of an old Pawnee woman who had one of these Sacred Bundles. There was a skull of a man sitting on this Bundle. The lowerjaw was loose and on top of the head. The bones of this skull were black as tar not like most bones. I asked her just who this man was as though talking about some live person? The Pawnee woman said to me "I will tell you what was told to me". Then she told me. It means in the English language that he was a superman, not a god but just a man of high qualities than other men. Then I asked her "what makes the bones black instead of white." She told me that it was from age. This skull had been handed down from generation to generation for possibly thousands of years. She told me that the same story that was told to her as had been told to her great grandfather.

I have a turtle shell that was taken out of the North Platte River in Nebraska years before the Pawnee Indians were moved to the reservation in Oklahoma. This shell was given to me by an old Pawnee Indian man who told me the story of this shell. He said it had been in the family all his life and had been used for a bowl.

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The Indian gets from nature his knowledge about how to take care of himself. But the white man ruined that for him. He killed all our game, Fenced our land and plowed it up. We learned from Nature to make blankets, baskets, pottery and to make our own clothes, our shoes and articles of necessity from buckskin. The things I have told you except about myself have been handed down to me. But I am still an Indian at heart and I have lots of knowledge of medicines that would be of great value to the world if it were patented but people would laugh at me and then would steal these remedies from me if I should open them to the world. The Indian will carry to his grave lots of valuable information that would help the white man to solve problems which he has studied for years.